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Draft report

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IV. Integrated global management

1. At its 518th meeting, on 4 September 2012, the Committee considered the section of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences concerning integrated global management (see A/67/127, paras. 24-33, and supplementary information, sect. II).

2. In 2011, the Department had continued to apply the proximity rule to meetings held away from the four main duty stations, leading to savings estimated at \$1.1 million for the biennium 2010-2011. The Department recognized that the satisfaction of Member States was a key performance indicator of conference management. Their low response rate to the global e-survey on conference services and minimal participation in the two annual language-specific informational meetings on the quality of language services was therefore disappointing.

Discussion

3. One delegation wished to know whether there was any recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the responsibility of the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management that required a response from the Committee. Other delegations wished to know how the Secretariat had arrived at the figure of \$1.1 million in savings stemming from the implementation of the proximity rule and whether there were other potential sources of savings from integrated global management initiatives. One delegation asked whether there was an effective mechanism in place to ensure that the calendar of conferences, which was available one year in advance, was factored into the budgets of the different duty stations.

4. An observer delegation agreed with the suggestion contained in paragraph 27 of the report that there was a need to amend the relevant Secretary-General's bulletins in order to ensure full harmony in the organizational structure and responsibilities of the four main duty stations. One delegation supported the

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recommendation to reduce the number of language-specific informational meetings from two to one per year. Other delegations asked whether concrete steps were being taken to increase Member States' participation in the e-surveys and the informational meetings, as requested in General Assembly resolution 66/233.

5. A representative of the Secretariat said that the main goal of integrated global management was to harmonize the policies, standards and systems used across United Nations duty stations. In fact, many of the benefits, such as the possibility of sharing information technology systems across duty stations and the joint conduct of competitive examinations, could not be quantified. Resources had not been provided for the initiative. Nevertheless, integrated global management did offer the potential of generating savings, for example through the consolidation of processes currently being pursued individually by each duty station, such as the bidding for contractual translation services. The \$1.1 million in savings generated by the application of the proximity rule were mostly a result of a reduction in travel expenses. Once the calendar of conferences was established, the cost of each meeting was indeed factored into the budget of the duty station hosting the meeting.

6. The information pertaining to integrated global management did not require action by the Committee but had been offered as an update; the issue of the Secretary-General's bulletins was a matter for internal action by the Secretariat. The Department was doing its utmost to strike the right balance between the responsibilities of the Under-Secretary-General and those of the directors-general. The Secretariat had made extensive efforts to increase the participation of Member States in the e-survey and the language-specific informational meetings, including through announcements in the *Journal*, e-mail reminders and promotion of the e-survey by the bureaux of intergovernmental bodies, yet participation remained low. The Department would welcome ideas concerning ways to increase the volume of feedback received from Member States.